

# Truths for Modern Disciples

## 2. How to Hear God's Voice

**JOHN 10:22-31; 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17; HEBREWS 1:1-2; JOHN 16:13**

### LESSON OVERVIEW (FOR THE LEADER)

This lesson continues our Timeless Truths for Modern Disciples series by applying the process we learned in Lesson 1 to one of the most important questions in the Christian life: How do I hear God's voice?

Many Christians are confused, discouraged, or distracted when it comes to hearing from God. Some believe God does not speak at all. Others expect God to speak in dramatic or mystical ways. Still others struggle to hear God because the noise of the world and the desires of the flesh drown out His voice.

The main point of the lesson is that God does speak to His people, and His sheep can learn to recognize His voice.

The lesson emphasized three important truths:

- **Separation** from worldly confusion about how God speaks.
- **Saturation** in the ways God has chosen to speak.
- **Practicing** a lifestyle that tunes our hearts to hear Him.

### FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP NOTES

If children are present, involve them intentionally throughout the group.

Before beginning, assign one child to be the "Kid Reporter." Let them know their job is to listen carefully because at the end of the gathering they will share the most important thing they learned.

Provide children with a Listening Sheet and encourage them to complete it during the teaching and discussion. They may write, draw, or do both depending on their age.

Also encourage children to draw a picture that illustrates the main lesson. At the end of the gathering, give them an opportunity to show and explain their drawing to the group.

## Ice Breaker

"Have you ever missed an important message, phone call, or instruction because you weren't paying attention? What happened?"

### **TRANSITION:**

“Every day we are surrounded by voices competing for our attention. This lesson explores how disciples learn to recognize the voice of the Good Shepherd.”

### **READ JOHN 10:22-31**

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What stands out to you most about Jesus' words in John 10?
2. If one of the children in our group asked you how they could hear the voice of God, what would you tell them?
3. According to the lesson, what are the primary ways God speaks to His people today? (Answer: The Bible, the life of Jesus, the Holy Spirit)
4. What are some practical ways we can "turn down the noise" in our lives so we can hear God more clearly? (Answer: prayer, fasting, solitude, etc.)
5. How can prayer, Scripture reading, fasting, and solitude help us become more sensitive to God's leading?

### **KIDS' QUESTION**

1. If a friend asked you how to hear from God, what would you say?

## **Prayer Time**

### **LEADER INSTRUCTIONS**

- Leader, as you begin the prayer time, explain to the group that tonight we want to slow down and genuinely seek the Lord together, not just rush through a closing prayer.
- On the next page is a list of prayer prompts based on this lesson. If you want, you can cut these out into individual strips of paper with one prayer prompt on each, and put those prayers in a basket.
- Pass the basket of prayer prompts around the circle and invite anyone who is willing to pray to take one.
- Let everyone know there is no pressure to pray out loud, and children are welcome to participate too.
- Encourage people to quietly read their prompt and begin thinking about how they want to pray when the time comes.
- Begin the prayer time yourself by leading a short opening prayer that helps the group focus on God, become calm and attentive, and invites the Holy Spirit to guide the time.
- Then leave space for others to pray one at a time using their prompts.
- Don't be afraid of a little silence between prayers.
- When it feels like the prayer time is naturally slowing down, close by thanking God for hearing His people, praying for the needs that were shared, and asking God to deepen our love for Him and strengthen our faith in Him throughout the week.

Before dismissing, invite the Kid Reporter to share the most important thing they learned. Then allow any children who would like to do so to show their drawings and briefly explain them to the group.

## **PRAYER PROMPTS**

Pray that God would help us recognize and follow the voice of the Good Shepherd.

Pray for a deeper hunger for God's Word, where His voice is most clearly heard.

Pray for those who feel distant from God, that they would experience His presence and guidance.

Pray for wisdom to recognize the difference between God's voice and the voices of the world.

Pray for Christians who are confused about hearing God's voice, that God would give them clarity and confidence.

Pray for our pastor, that he would faithfully hear God's direction as he leads our church.

Pray for our church leaders and teachers, that they would listen carefully to God's Word and teach it faithfully.

Pray for parents, that they would teach their children to know and trust the voice of Jesus.

Pray for the children and students of our church, that they would learn to love God's Word at an early age.

Pray for believers who are making important decisions, that God would guide them with wisdom.

Pray for those facing temptation, that they would listen to the Spirit instead of the flesh.

Pray for those who are distracted by busyness, entertainment, or technology, that God would help them make space to hear Him.

Pray for those who struggle with anxiety, that they would find peace by trusting God's guidance.

Pray for a greater desire to spend time in prayer and Scripture.

Pray for those who are new believers, that they would grow in their ability to recognize God's leading.

Pray for people who have been hurt by false teaching, that God would lead them into truth.

Pray for discernment to recognize voices that do not come from God.

Pray for courage to obey God when His leading requires faith and sacrifice.

Pray that God would help us slow down and listen more carefully throughout the week.

Pray for those who feel overwhelmed by life's decisions, that God would direct their steps.

Pray for a spirit of humility that is willing to receive God's correction.

Pray that our church would be known as a people who listen to God's Word and obey it.

Pray for opportunities to encourage others with biblical truth and wisdom.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue transforming the way we think.

Pray that we would not merely hear God's voice, but faithfully follow wherever He leads.

# Kids' Listening Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## TODAY'S BIBLE PASSAGE(S):

## THE MOST IMPORTANT THING I LEARNED:

## A WORD I HEARD TODAY:

Word: \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean?

## SOMETHING I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND:

## DRAW A PICTURE OF WHAT YOU LEARNED (ON THE BACK):